

***Laetulonthus*, a New Genus for *Philonthus laetulus* Say
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)**

IAN MOORE AND E. F. LEGNER¹

DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL, CITRUS RESEARCH CENTER AND AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT
STATION, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE 92502

RECEIVED FOR PUBLICATION SEPTEMBER 12, 1972

INTRODUCTION

Philonthus laetulus Say must be removed from *Philonthus* and placed in a new genus because of its unarmed anterior tibiae and strongly deflexed superior lateral carina of the prothorax.

Say first described this species thinking that it probably was the *Staphylinus blandus* of Gravenhorst, but noting some discrepancies between his specimen and Gravenhorst's description he proposed the name *laetulus* should they prove to be distinct.

The following key to the genera is modified from Moore (1965).

KEY TO THE GENERA OF THE STAPHYLININAE OF AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO

1. Superior lateral line of pronotum not deflexed in front so that the large lateral setigerous puncture is on it or separated from it at most by little more than the width of the puncture 2
 - Superior lateral line of pronotum deflexed in front so that the large lateral setigerous puncture is distant from it by at least three times the width of the puncture 4
- 2(1). Last segment of labial palpi not or very little narrower than penultimate, subfusiform or aciculate; anterior tarsi usually with pale spatulate setae beneath *Philonthus* Stephens
 - Last segment of labial palpi narrower than penultimate, cylindrical; tempora longer than eyes, subparallel; pronotum elongate 3
- 3(2). Anterior tarsi broadly dilated, with pale spatulate setae beneath; pronotum with a series of four discal punctures each side of mid-line *Gabronthus* Tottenham
 - Anterior tarsi not dilated; without pale spatulate setae beneath; pronotum with a series of five discal punctures each side of mid-line *Gabrius* Curtis
- 4(1). Prosternum not carinate 5
 - Prosternum strongly longitudinally carinate 10
- 5(4). Basal impressions of basal tergites not more coarsely punctured than rest of tergite 6
 - Basal impressions of basal tergites much more coarsely punctured than rest of tergite *Neobisnius* Ganglbauer

¹Staff Research Associate and Associate Entomologist, respectively, Division of Biological Control, Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside 92502.

- 6(5). First segment of posterior tarsi as long as last segment 7
 First segment of posterior tarsi shorter than last segment *Erichsonius* Fauvel
- 7(6). Anterior tarsi dilated (second segment wider than long), with dense pale spatulate setae beneath 8
 Anterior tarsi slender (second segment longer than wide); without pale spatulate setae beneath; posterior femora of male usually spinose beneath
 *Belonuchus* Nordman
- 8(7). Last segment of maxillary palpi not more than three times as long as wide 9
 Last segment of maxillary palpi more than four times as long as wide
 *Hesperus* Fauvel
- 9(8). Anterior tibiae spinose on outer edge *Cafius* Curtis
 Anterior tibiae not spinose on outer edge *Laetulonthus* NEW GENUS
- 10(4). Mesosternum longitudinally carinate *Ontholestes* Ganglbauer
 Mesosternum not longitudinally carinate 11
- 11(10). Last segment of labial palpi subfusiform *Staphylinus* Linnaeus
 Last segment of labial palpi subsecuriform *Ocyopus* Samuella

***Laetulonthus* NEW GENUS, MOORE & LEGNER**

FORM. Moderate size, elongate, parallel. Integuments shining, not coarsely sculptured.

HEAD orbicular, narrowed behind to form a neck which is delimited by a distinct nuchal constriction. Eyes moderate, not protruding. Antennae eleven-segmented, slightly thickened apically; their fossae located at the front margin of the head just inside the bases of the mandibles, not under a ridge; first three segments semi-glabrous, segments four through eleven densely pubescent. Mandibles curved, pointed; with a central tooth; with a shallow groove on the upper surface near the outer edge. Clypeus truncate. Labrum deeply bilobed, with six or eight long setae at apical edge. Maxillary palpi four-segmented; first segment short, curved; second segment a little more than twice as long as wide, curved, thickened at apex; third segment about as long as but not quite as wide as second; fourth segment a little longer than and slightly narrower than third, subcylindrical, pointed at apex. Outer lobe of maxillae longer than inner lobe, each densely ciliate at apex. Labial palpi three-segmented, the segments of about equal length, each a little more than twice as long as wide, third segment subcylindrical, somewhat narrowed at apex. Ligula membranous, entire. Mentum three times as wide as long, widest at base. Gular sutures widely separated in front, united from near the middle to the base. Infra-orbital carina lacking.

THORAX. Pronotum subquadrate, with a dorsal series of three discal punctures each side of mid-line; superior lateral carina deflexed so that the large lateral setigerous puncture is removed from it by about four times the width of the puncture. Prosternum large, tumid centrally, divided transversely by a carina. Trochantin small. Hypomera slender, the superior and inferior lateral carinae united before the anterior angles. Prothoracic epimera lacking. Mesosternal process extending about a third of the distance between the middle coxae. Middle coxae separated. Mesosternum with a curved longitudinal carina delimiting the base of the mesosternal process. Elytra subquadrate, elytral epipleura not delimited by a carina. Scutellum large, punctate. Anterior and middle coxae large, exerted; posterior coxae transverse. Anterior tibiae without spines except at apices; middle and posterior tibiae with large scattered spines throughout. Tarsi five-segmented, first three segments of anterior tarsi moderately broadly dilated, with pale spatulate setae beneath. Posterior tarsi with first and fifth segments of about equal length, second through fourth segments shorter, decreasing in length.

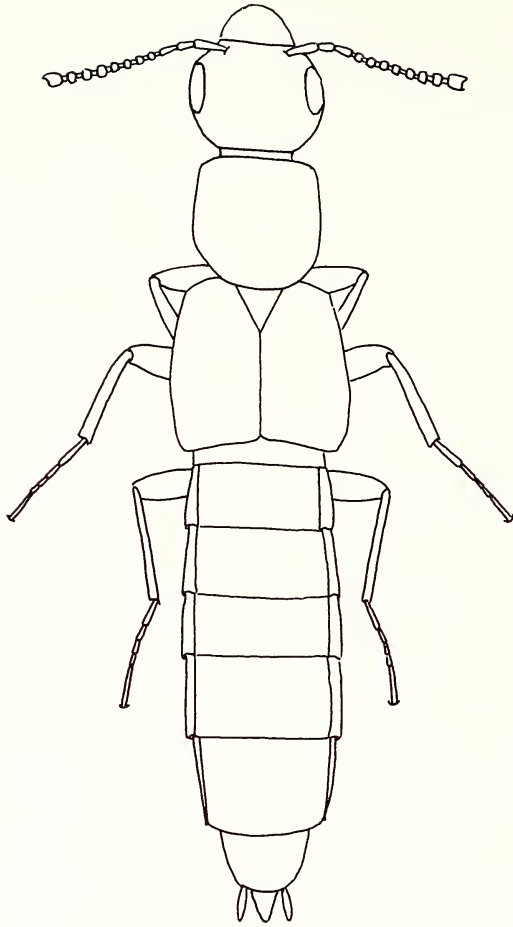


FIG. 1. Habitus of *Lactulonthus lactulus* (Say), male.

ABDOMEN with first three visible tergites shallowly impressed at base; first five visible sternites with two paratergites each side. First visible sternite without a keel between the coxae.

TYPE SPECIES *Staphylinus lactulus* SAY

NOTES. The single species in this genus has usually been included in the genus *Philonthus* from which it differs widely in that the large lateral setigerous puncture of the pronotum is removed from the lateral margin by about four times the width of the puncture whereas in *Philonthus* it is either on the lateral carina or removed from it by no more than the width of the puncture. In *Lactulonthus* the anterior tibiae are without spines on the outer edge. The anterior tibiae are strongly spinose on the outer edge in *Philonthus*.

***Laetulonthus laetulus* (SAY)**

Staphylinus laetulus Say, 1834, Trans. Am. Philos. Soc., **14**: 449.

Philonthus laetulus, Horn, 1884, Trans. Am. Entomol. Soc., **11**: 184.

DESCRIPTION OF MALE:

COLOR piccus with the pronotum, prosternum, coxae, trochanters, femora, first three and bases of fourth and fifth abdominal segments ferruginous.

HEAD orbicular, about one-fourth wider than long, with a few scattered punctures on disc and behind eyes, surface with very fine strigulose ground sculpture throughout. Antennae with first segment as long as next two together; second and third segments subequal in length; fourth segment as wide as and half as long as third; fifth through tenth segments as long as fourth, each slightly wider than preceding so that tenth is three-eighths wider than long; eleventh as wide as and twice as long as tenth, asymmetrically pointed.

THORAX. Pronotum very slightly narrower than head, as wide as long, quadrate, anterior angles narrowly rounded, sides gently arcuate, hind angles broadly rounded, apex nearly straight, base broadly arcuate. Anterior tibiae moderately broadly dilated.

ELYTRA conjointly three-tenths wider than pronotum, one-tenth wider than long, rather coarsely punctured throughout, the punctures separated by about three or four times their diameters, surface between the punctures minutely rough, shining, but without definite ground sculpture.

ABDOMEN as wide as elytra, punctured a little more finely and a little more sparsely than elytra, surface with very faint strigulose ground sculpture. Beneath slightly more coarsely punctured and more coarsely strigulose than above. Apex of sixth visible sternite with a moderately large triangular emargination surrounded by a fine membrane.

FEMALE. Head as wide as pronotum. Anterior tarsi slightly dilated. Apex of sixth sternite entire.

DISTRIBUTION. Has been collected from Canada to Georgia and west to Missouri and Texas.

HABITAT. Has been taken in Missouri by C. A. Frost from under bark of pine logs in September.

REMARKS. This species has been compared with *Philonthus blandus* which it resembles in configuration and color but which differs from it not only in the generic characters but in the pronotum having a series of three discal punctures on each side and in having the anterior tarsi undilated and without pale spatulate setae beneath and in many other details.

Literature Cited

- HORN, GEORGE. 1884. Synopsis of the Philonthi of boreal America. Trans. Am. Entomol. Soc., **11**: 177-244.
- MOORE, IAN. 1965. The genera of the Staphylininae of America north of Mexico (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae). Coleopt. Bull., **19**: 98-103, 7 figs.
- SAY, THOMAS. 1836. Descriptions of new North American insects and observations on some already described. Trans. Am. Philos. Soc., **4**: 409-470.